

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 were presented in the application as filed on November 26, 2002. In an Office action dated October 3, 2005, restriction to a single invention was required. The claims of Group I, claims 1-7, 12-18, 22-27, 35, 37 and 39 were elected in a response dated November 5, 2005. Claims 1-7, 12-18, 22-27, and 37 are currently under consideration. Claims 1-9 are cancelled herewith.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0005955 to Shitsuka. Claims 1-9 are now cancelled, and the rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 12, 14, 22 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-255982 (JP '982). The rejection of the claims remaining after cancellation of claim 1 is traversed.

JP '982 relates to an organic EL element including an electrode 12, backing electrode 16 and electron injection layer 20 (Abstract). The Office action suggests that the first layer of the rejected claims reads on electrode 12 and/or backing electrode 16 and the elongated members of the rejected claims read on electron injection layer 20. Electrode 12 is composed of ITO and backing electrode 16 is composed of Au or Al (paragraph 0009). "Luminous layer 14 . . . is formed in the front face of transparent electrode 12 (paragraph 0009, machine translation of JP '982). Applicants note that 'front face' indicates the surface on which electron injection layer 20 is disposed (FIG. 2).

Claim 12 is now amended to recite "at least an electrically and optically active organic material disposed between said first electrode and said first layer of said second electrode, on a surface of said first layer *opposite to* the plurality of electrically interconnected elongated members." (emphasis added) Applicants submit that the reference does not anticipate claim 12 as amended or claims 14, 22 or 26 which depend from claim 12. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

Claims 1, 12, 13, 22 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,949,878, to Suzuri. The rejection of claims 12, 13, 22 and 26 is traversed.

Suzuri relates to a multicolor light emission apparatus (Abstract) composed of electron injection layer 26 and cathode 27 (FIG. 7, col. 30, lines 60-67). The Office action states that the first layer of claims 1 and 12 reads on electron injection layer 26 and the elongated members read on cathode 27. Electron injection layer 26 is composed of LiF (col. 30, lines 60-62); other materials for use and an electron injection layer include Sr, Al MgF and aluminum oxide (col. 8, lines 54-62).

Claim 12 is also amended to recite that the "elongated members" are "electrically interconnected". Suzuri is silent regarding electrical interconnected of cathode 27, accordingly, Applicants submit that the reference does not anticipate claims 1 or 12 or claims 13, 22 or 26, which depend from claim 12. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US 2003/0005955 to Shiotsuka. Claims 1-9 are now cancelled.

Claims 1-7, 12-18, 35 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US 2003/0005955 to Shiotsuka, in view of US 5, 331,183, to Sacrifici. The rejection is traversed.

Shiotsuka relates to photovoltaic elements having first and second electrodes 105a and 105b and transparent electrode 104 (Abstract, FIG. 1, paragraph 0050). The Office action suggests that transparent electrode 104 corresponds to the first layer of the claims and first and/or second electrode 105a and 105b correspond to the elongated members of the claims. Transparent electrode 104 is composed of an oxide of indium, tin, zinc, titanium, cadmium or a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 is now amended to limit the composition of the electrically conducting materials to "at least one metal or alloy having a work function of less than about 4 eV". Shiotsuka is silent regarding a structure having a layer of the claimed composition. Sacrifici relates to diodes fabricated from semiconducting polymers and acceptors (Abstract); the patent is also silent regarding the claimed structure, and so cannot supply the deficiency of the primary reference. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 12 and its dependent claims are not obvious over the combination of the references. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

Claims 1, 12, 14-18, 22 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over JP 10-255982. Claims 1-7, 12-18, 22-27 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being US 6,949,878, to Suzuri. The rejections are traversed.

The deficiencies of JP '982 and Suzuri are discussed above. Briefly, none of the references teaches or suggests a structure as set forth in independent claims 12, 27 and 37, as now amended, and their dependent claims. Therefore, applicants submit the claims as now amended are not obvious over the cited references. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is believed that claims 12-18, 22-27, 35, and 37 are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims under consideration herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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